TRAUMA - PEDIATRIC
(Less than 15 years of age)

Any critical trauma patient (CTP) requires effective communication and rapid transportation to the closest trauma center. If not contacted at scene, the receiving trauma center must be notified as soon as possible in order to activate the trauma team.

Inyo and Mono Counties do not have trauma center designations and the assigned base hospital should be contacted for determination of appropriate destination.

I. FIELD ASSESSMENT/TREATMENT INDICATORS

Refer to ICEMA Reference #15030 - Trauma Triage Criteria and Destination Policy.

II. BLS INTERVENTIONS

- Ensure thorough initial assessment.
- Ensure patient airway, protecting cervical spine.
- Oxygen and/or ventilate as needed, O_2 saturation (if BLS equipped).
- Keep patient warm and reassure.
- For a traumatic full arrest, an AED may be utilized, if indicated.
- Transport to ALS intercept or to the closest receiving hospital.

A. <u>Manage Special Considerations</u>

- **Axial Spinal Immobilization**: Using age appropriate assessments, if the patient meet(s) any of the following indicators using the acronym (NSAID):

  N-euro Deficit(s) present?
  S-pinal Tenderness present?
  A-ltered Mental Status?
  I-ntoxication?
  D-istracting Injury?

  - ➢ Consider maintaining spinal alignment on the gurney, or using spinal axial immobilization on an awake, alert and cooperative patient, without the use of a rigid spine board.

- Penetrating trauma without any NSAID indicators are not candidates for spinal immobilization using spine board.

- **Axial Spinal Immobilization with use of a Rigid Spine Board**: If the use of a rigid, spine board is indicated, and the level of the patient's head is greater than that of the torso, use approved pediatric spine board with a head drop or arrange padding on the board so that the ears line up with the shoulders and keep the entire lower spine and pelvis in line with the cervical spine and parallel to the board.

- **Abdominal Trauma**: Cover eviscerated organs with saline dampened gauze. Do not attempt to replace organs into the abdominal cavity.

- **Amputations**: Control bleeding. Rinse amputated part gently with sterile irrigation saline to remove loose debris/gross contamination. Place amputated part in dry, sterile gauze and in a plastic bag surrounded by ice (if available). Prevent direct contact with ice. Document in the narrative who the amputated part was given to.

  Partial amputation: Splint in anatomic position and elevate the extremity.

- **Blunt Chest Trauma**: If a wound is present, cover it with an occlusive dressing. If the patient's ventilations are being assisted, dress wound loosely, (do not seal). Continuously re-evaluate patient for the development of tension pneumothorax.

- **Flail Chest**: Stabilize chest, observe for tension pneumothorax. Consider assisted ventilations.

- **Fractures**: Immobilize above and below the injury. Apply splint to injury in position found except:

  - **Femur**: Apply traction splint if indicated.

  - **Grossly angulated long bone with distal neurovascular compromise**: Apply gentle unidirectional traction to improve circulation.

  - **Check and document distal pulse before and after positioning**.

- **Genital Injuries**: Cover genitalia with saline soaked gauze. If necessary, apply direct pressure to control bleeding. Treat amputations the same as extremity amputations.

- **Head and Neck Trauma**: Place brain injured patients in reverse Trendelenburg (elevate the head of the backboard 15 - 20 degrees), if the patient exhibits no signs of shock.

  - **Eye**: Whenever possible protect an injured eye with a rigid dressing, cup or eye shield. Do not attempt to replace a partially torn globe - stabilize it in place with sterile saline soaked gauze. Cover uninjured eye.

  - **Avulsed Tooth**: Collect teeth, place in moist, sterile saline gauze and place in a plastic bag.

- **Impaled Object**: Immobilize and leave in place. Remove object if it interferes with CPR, or if the object is impaled in the face, cheek or neck and is compromising ventilations.

- **Traumatic Arrest**: CPR if indicated. May utilize an AED if indicated.

- **Determination of Death on Scene**: Refer to ICEMA Reference #12010 - Determination of Death on Scene.

III. LIMITED ALS (LALS) INTERVENTIONS

- Advanced airway (as indicated).

  - Unmanageable Airway: Transport to the closest most appropriate receiving hospital when the patient requires an advance airway. An adequate airway cannot be maintained with a BVM device.

- Apply AED.

- IV Access (warm IV fluids when available).

  - *Unstable:* Vital signs (age appropriate) and/or signs of inadequate tissue perfusion, start 2nd IV access.

    Administer 20ml/kg NS bolus IV. May repeat once.

  - *Stable*: Vital signs (age appropriate) and/or signs of adequate tissue perfusion.

    Maintain IV NS rate at TKO.

- Transport to appropriate hospital. Pediatric patients identified as CTP will be transported to a pediatric trauma hospital when there is less than a 20 minute difference in transport time to the pediatric trauma hospital versus the closes trauma hospital.

A. Manage Special Considerations

- **Axial Spinal Immobilization**: LALS personnel should remove axial spinal immobilization devices from patients placed in full axial spinal immobilization precautions by first responders and BLS personnel if the patient does not meet any of the following indicators while considering age-appropriate assessments when using the acronym (NSAID):

  N-euro Deficit(s) present?
  S-pinal Tenderness present?
  A-ltered Mental Status?
  I-ntoxication?
  D-istracting Injury?

  - Consider maintaining spinal alignment on the gurney, or using spinal axial immobilization on an awake, alert and cooperative patient, without the use of a rigid spine board.

  - Penetrating trauma without any NSAID indicators are not candidates for spinal immobilization using long board.

- **Axial Spinal Immobilization with use of a Rigid Spine Board**: If the use of a rigid, spine board is indicated, and the level of the patient's head is greater than that of the torso, use approved pediatric spine board with a head drop or arrange padding on the board so that the ears line up with the shoulders and keep the entire lower spine and pelvis in line with the cervical spine and parallel to the board.

- **Fractures**

  - **Isolated Extremity Trauma**: Trauma without multisystem mechanism. Extremity trauma is defined as those cases of injury where the limb itself and/or the appendicular skeleton (shoulder or pelvic girdle) may be injured, e.g., dislocated shoulder, hip fracture or dislocation.

  - Administer IV NS 250 ml bolus one (1) time.

- **Impaled Object**: Remove object upon trauma base hospital physician order, if indicated.

- **Traumatic Arrest**: Continue CPR as appropriate.

  - Apply AED and follow the instructions.

- **Determination of Death on Scene**: Refer to ICEMA Reference #12010 - Determination of Death on Scene.

  - *Severe Blunt Force Trauma Arrest*: If indicated, transport to the closest receiving hospital.

  - *Penetrating Trauma Arrest*: If indicated, transport to the closest receiving hospital.

- If the patient does not meet the "Obvious Death Criteria" in ICEMA Reference #12010 - Determination of Death on Scene, contact the Trauma base hospital for determination of death on scene for those patients who suffer a traumatic cardiac arrest in the setting of penetrating trauma, and no reported vital signs (palpable pulse and/or spontaneous respirations) during the EMS encounter with the patient.

- Resuscitation efforts on a penetrating traumatic arrest victim are not to be terminated without trauma base hospital contact.

- **Precautions and Comments**:

  - Electrical injuries that result in cardiac arrest shall be treated as medical arrests.

  - Confirm low blood sugar in children and treat as indicated with altered level of consciousness.

  - Suspect child maltreatment when physical findings are inconsistent with the history. Remember reporting requirements for suspected child maltreatment.

  - **Unsafe scene may warrant transport despite low potential for survival**.

  - Whenever possible, consider minimal disturbance of a potential crime scene.

- **Base Hospital Orders**: May order additional fluid boluses.

IV. ALS INTERVENTIONS

- Advanced airway (as indicated).

  - Unmanageable Airway: If an adequate airway cannot be maintained with a BVM device; **and** the paramedic is unable to intubate or perform a successful needle cricothyrotomy (if indicated), **then**

transport to the closest receiving hospital and follow ICEMA Reference #8100 - Continuation of Trauma Care.

- Monitor ECG.
- IV/IO Access (Warm IV fluids when available).
  - *Unstable:* Vital signs (age appropriate) and/or signs of inadequate tissue perfusion, start 2nd IV access.

    Administer 20ml/kg NS bolus IV/IO, may repeat once.
  - *Stable*: Vital signs (age appropriate) and/or signs of adequate tissue perfusion.

    Maintain IV NS rate at TKO.
- Transport to Trauma Center: Pediatric patients identified as CTP will be transported to a pediatric trauma hospital when there is less than a 20 minute difference in transport time to the pediatric trauma hospital versus the closest trauma hospital.
- Insert nasogastric/orogastric tube as indicated

A. Manage Special Considerations

- **Axial Spinal Immobilization**: ALS personnel should remove axial spinal immobilization devices from patients placed in full axial spinal immobilization precautions by first responders and BLS personnel if the patient does not meet any of the following indicators while considering age-appropriate assessments when using the acronym (NSAID):

  N-euro Deficit(s) present?
  S-pinal Tenderness present?
  A-ltered Mental Status?
  I-ntoxication?
  D-istracting Injury?

  - Consider maintaining spinal alignment on the gurney, or using spinal axial immobilization on an awake, alert and cooperative patient, without the use of a rigid spine board.
  - Penetrating trauma without any NSAID indicators are not candidates for spinal immobilization using long board.

- **Axial Spinal Immobilization with use of a Rigid Spine Board**: If the use of a rigid, spine board is indicated, and the level of the patient's head is greater than that of the torso, use approved pediatric spine board with a head drop or arrange padding on the board so that the ears line up with the shoulders and keep the entire lower spine and pelvis in line with the cervical spine and parallel to the board.

- **Blunt Chest Trauma**: Perform needle thoracostomy for chest trauma with symptomatic respiratory distress.

- **Fractures**

  - **Isolated Extremity Trauma**: Trauma without multisystem mechanism. Extremity trauma is defined as those cases of injury where the limb itself and/or the appendicular skeleton (shoulder or pelvic girdle) may be injured - e.g. dislocated shoulder, hip fracture or dislocation.

  - **Pain Relief**:
    - Morphine or Fentanyl per ICEMA Reference #7040 - Medication - Standard Orders.
    - For patients four (4) years old and older, consider Ondansetron per ICEMA Reference #7040 - Medication - Standard Orders.
    - Patients in high altitudes should be hydrated with IV NS prior to IV pain relief to reduce the incidents of nausea, vomiting, and transient hypotension, which are side effects associated with administering IV Morphine. Administer 20ml/kg NS bolus IV/IO one time.

- **Head and Neck Trauma**: Immediately prior to intubation, consider prophylactic Lidocaine per ICEMA Reference #7040 - Medication - Standard Orders for suspected head/brain injury.

- **Base Hospital Orders**: When considering Nasotracheal intubation ($\geq$15 years of age) and significant facial trauma, trauma to the face or nose and/or possible basilar skull fracture are present, Trauma base hospital contact is required.

- **Impaled Object**: Remove object upon Trauma base hospital physician order, if indicated.

- **Traumatic Arrest**: Continue CPR as appropriate.

  - Treat per ICEMA Reference #14040 - Cardiac Arrest - Pediatric.

- **Determination of Death on Scene**: Refer to ICEMA Reference #12010 - Determination of Death on Scene.

  - *Severe Blunt Force Trauma Arrest*: If indicated, transport to the closest receiving hospital.

  - *Penetrating Trauma Arrest*: If indicated, transport to the closest receiving hospital.

- If the patient does not meet the "Obvious Death Criteria" in ICEMA Reference #12010 - Determination of Death on Scene, contact the Trauma base hospital for determination of death on scene for those patients who suffer a traumatic cardiac arrest in the setting of penetrating trauma with documented asystole in at least two (2) leads, and no reported vital signs (palpable pulse and/or spontaneous respirations) during the EMS encounter with the patient.

- Resuscitation efforts on a penetrating traumatic arrest victim are not to be terminated without Trauma base hospital contact.

- **Precautions and Comments**:

  - Electrical injuries that result in cardiac arrest shall be treated as medical arrests.

  - Confirm low blood sugar in children and treat as indicated with altered level of consciousness.

  - Suspect child maltreatment when physical findings are inconsistent with the history. Remember reporting requirements for suspected child maltreatment.

  - **Unsafe scene may warrant transport despite low potential for survival**.

  - Whenever possible, consider minimal disturbance of a potential crime scene.

- **Base Hospital Orders**: May order additional medications and/or fluid boluses.

V. REFERENCES

Number	Name
7040	Medication - Standard Orders
12010	Determination of Death on Scene
14040	Cardiac Arrest - Pediatric
15030	Trauma Triage Criteria and Destination Policy